

Application No. 10/728,735
Amendment dated April 19, 2006
Reply to Office Action of February 9, 2006

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-45 were pending in the above-captioned patent application at the time of the Office Action. Claims 16-45 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-5, 8, and 10-12 are rejected. Claims 6, 7, 9, and 13-15 are objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In response to the objections and rejections, applicant amends claims 1, 3-5, 7, 9, and 13, cancels claims 6 and 16-45 and adds new claims 46-67.

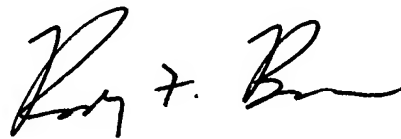
Amended claim 1 incorporates all the limitations of original claims 1 and 6. Amended claim 7 incorporates all the limitations of original claims 1 and 7. Amended claim 9 incorporates all the limitations of original claims 1 and 9. Amended claim 13 incorporates all the limitations of original claims 1, 9 and 13. Accordingly, amended claims 1, 7, 9, and 13 are allowable. Original or amended claims 2-5, 8, 10-12, 14 and 15 are allowable as depending directly or indirectly on allowable claims. New claims 46-67 are likewise allowable as depending directly or indirectly on allowable claims.

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Conclusion

In conclusion, applicant respectfully asserts that all pending claims 1-5, 7-15, and 46-67 in the instant patent application are allowable for the reasons set forth above. Accordingly, an early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (858) 272-8705 for any reason that would advance the instant application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rodney F. Brown". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rodney" being more prominent than the last name "Brown".

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